

**Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Patrick Michael Ford	)	File Number: EB-10-TP-0003
	)	
Fort Myers, Florida	)	NAL/Acct. No.: 201132700005
	)	
	)	FRN: 0020835740

**NOTICE OF APPARENT LIABILITY FOR FORFEITURE**

Adopted: May 4, 2011

Released: May 5, 2011

By the District Director, Tampa Office, South Central Region, Enforcement Bureau:

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. In this Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture, we find that Patrick Michael Ford ("Mr. Ford"), apparently willfully and repeatedly violated section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended ("Act"),<sup>1</sup> by operating an unlicensed radio transmitter on the frequency 95.7 MHz in Fort Myers, Florida. We conclude that Mr. Ford is apparently liable for a forfeiture in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

**II. BACKGROUND**

2. On May 26, 2010, in response to a complaint of an unlicensed radio station broadcasting in Fort Myers, Florida, agents from the Enforcement Bureau's Tampa Office ("Tampa Office") used direction-finding techniques to locate the source of radio frequency transmissions on the frequency 95.7 MHz to a residence in Fort Myers, Florida.<sup>2</sup> The agents determined that the signals being broadcast exceeded the limits for operation under Part 15 of the Commission's rules ("Rules"), and therefore required a license.<sup>3</sup> According to Commission records, no person or entity, including Mr. Ford, holds an authorization to broadcast on this frequency from this location. Agents from the Tampa Office also observed the station in operation at the same location on May 27 and May 28, 2010.

3. While monitoring the station on May 26 and May 27, 2010, agents from the Tampa Office heard a male voice identify himself as Disc Jockey ("DJ") "Joker." The agents also found several photographs of an individual identified as DJ "Joker" and an advertisement for DJ "Joker" and radio station 95.7 MHz on the internet.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 301.

<sup>2</sup> The agents observed an antenna mounted to a pole next to the residence.

<sup>3</sup> Section 15.239 of the Rules provides that non-licensed broadcasting in the 88-108 MHz band is permitted only if the field strength of the transmission does not exceed 250 µV/m at three meters. 47 C.F.R. § 15.239.

<sup>4</sup> On May 18, 2010, an agent from the Tampa Office found an advertisement for 95.7 MHz, "Peace in Da Hood Radio" which listed a "DJ Joker." [www.myspace.com/95.7radio/photos](http://www.myspace.com/95.7radio/photos). A separate photograph of "DJ Joker" was posted at <http://www.myspace.com/djjokerbaby/> on May 18, 2010.

4. On June 3, 2010, agents from the Tampa Office inspected the unlicensed radio station when it was on the air and found Mr. Ford present at the residence. The agents recognized Mr. Ford's face and voice as that of DJ "Joker" from his pictures on the internet and his radio broadcasts. Another person present at the residence during the inspection stated that Mr. Ford was DJ "Joker" and that he was an operator of the unlicensed station.

### III. DISCUSSION

5. Section 503(b) of the Act provides that any person who willfully or repeatedly fails to comply substantially with the terms and conditions of any license, or willfully or repeatedly fails to comply with any of the provisions of the Act or of any rule, regulation, or order issued by the Commission thereunder, shall be liable for a forfeiture penalty.<sup>5</sup> The term "willful" as used in section 503(b) has been interpreted to mean simply that the acts or omissions are committed knowingly.<sup>6</sup> The term "repeated" means the commission or omission of such act more than once or for more than one day.<sup>7</sup>

6. Section 301 of the Act requires that no person shall use or operate any apparatus for the transmission of energy or communications or signals by radio within the United States except under and in accordance with the Act and with a license.<sup>8</sup> On May 26, May 27, May 28, and June 3, 2010, agents from the Tampa Office determined that an unlicensed radio station was operating on 95.7 MHz from a residence in Fort Myers, Florida. As discussed above, the operator of the station on May 26 and 27, 2010, was a male who identified himself on 95.7 MHz as DJ "Joker." The agents determined that Mr. Ford was DJ "Joker", a fact that was confirmed by another individual who was also present during the Commission's inspection on June 3, 2010. Because Mr. Ford consciously operated the station, we find that the apparent violation was willful. Moreover, because the unlicensed operation occurred on more than one day, we find that the apparent violation was repeated. Based on the evidence before us, we find that Mr. Ford apparently willfully and repeatedly violated section 301 of the Act by operating radio transmission equipment without the required Commission authorization.

7. Pursuant to the Commission's *Forfeiture Policy Statement* and section 1.80 of the Rules, the base forfeiture amount for operation without an instrument of authorization is \$10,000.<sup>9</sup> In assessing the monetary forfeiture amount, we must also take into account the statutory factors set forth in section 503(b)(2)(E) of the Act, which include the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the violations, and with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses, ability to pay, and other such matters as justice may require.<sup>10</sup> Applying the *Forfeiture Policy Statement*, section 1.80 of the Rules,

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<sup>5</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 503(b).

<sup>6</sup> Section 312(f)(1) of the Act, 47 U.S.C. § 312(f)(1), which applies to violations for which forfeitures are assessed under section 503(b) of the Act, provides that "[t]he term 'willful', when used with reference to the commission or omission of any act, means the conscious and deliberate commission or omission of such act, irrespective of any intent to violate any provision of this Act or any rule or regulation of the Commission authorized by this Act...." See, e.g., *Southern California Broadcasting Co.*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 6 FCC Rcd 4387 (1991), *recon. denied*, 7 FCC Rcd 3454 (1992).

<sup>7</sup> Section 312(f)(2) of the Act, 47 U.S.C. § 312(f)(2), which also applies to violations for which forfeitures are assessed under section 503(b) of the Act, provides that "[t]he term 'repeated', when used with reference to the commission or omission of any act, means the commission or omission of such act more than once or, if such commission or omission is continuous, for more than one day."

<sup>8</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 301.

<sup>9</sup> *The Commission's Forfeiture Policy Statement and Amendment of Section 1.80 of the Rules to Incorporate the Forfeiture Guidelines*, Report and Order, 12 FCC Rcd 17087 (1997) ("*Forfeiture Policy Statement*"), *recon. denied*, 15 FCC Rcd 303 (1999); 47 C.F.R. § 1.80.

<sup>10</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 503(b)(2)(E).

and the statutory factors to the instant case, we conclude that Mr. Ford is apparently liable for a \$10,000 forfeiture.

#### IV. ORDERING CLAUSES

8. Accordingly, **IT IS ORDERED** that, pursuant to section 503(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and sections 0.111, 0.204, 0.311, 0.314, and 1.80 of the Rules, Patrick Michael Ford is hereby **NOTIFIED** of this **APPARENT LIABILITY FOR A FORFEITURE** in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for violations of section 301 of the Act.<sup>11</sup>

9. **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, pursuant to section 1.80 of the Commission's Rules within thirty days of the release date of this Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture, Patrick Michael Ford **SHALL PAY** the full amount of the proposed forfeiture or **SHALL FILE** a written statement seeking reduction or cancellation of the proposed forfeiture.

10. Payment of the forfeiture must be made by credit card, check, or similar instrument, payable to the order of the Federal Communications Commission. The payment must include the Account Number and FRN Number referenced above. Payment by check or money order may be mailed to Federal Communications Commission, P.O. Box 979088, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000. Payment by overnight mail may be sent to U.S. Bank – Government Lockbox #979088, SL-MO-C2-GL, 1005 Convention Plaza, St. Louis, MO 63101. Payment by wire transfer may be made to ABA Number 021030004, receiving bank TREAS/NYC, and account number 270000001. For payment by credit card, an FCC Form 159 (Remittance Advice) must be submitted. When completing the FCC Form 159, enter the NAL/Account number in block number 23A (call sign/other ID), and enter the letters “FORF” in block number 24A (payment type code). Requests for full payment under an installment plan should be sent to: Chief Financial Officer -- Financial Operations, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room 1-A625, Washington, D.C. 20554.<sup>12</sup> For questions about payment, contact the Financial Operations Group Help Desk at 1-877-480-3201 or Email: [ARINQUIRIES@fcc.gov](mailto:ARINQUIRIES@fcc.gov). Patrick Michael Ford shall also send an email notification to [SCR-Response@fcc.gov](mailto:SCR-Response@fcc.gov) on the date said payment is made.

11. The written statement seeking reduction or cancellation of the proposed forfeiture, if any, must include a detailed factual statement supported by appropriate documentation and affidavits pursuant to sections 1.80(f)(3) and 1.16 of the Rules. The written statement, if any, shall be mailed to Federal Communications Commission, Enforcement Bureau, South Central Region, Tampa Office, 4010 W. Boy Scout Blvd., Suite 425, Tampa, Florida 33607, and must include the NAL/Acct. No. referenced in the caption. The written statement shall also be emailed to [SCR-Response@fcc.gov](mailto:SCR-Response@fcc.gov).

12. The Commission will not consider reducing or canceling a forfeiture in response to a claim of inability to pay unless the petitioner submits: (1) federal tax returns for the most recent three-year period; (2) financial statements prepared according to generally accepted accounting practices (“GAAP”); or (3) some other reliable and objective documentation that accurately reflects the petitioner's current financial status. Any claim of inability to pay must specifically identify the basis for the claim by reference to the financial documentation submitted.

<sup>11</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 301, 503(b), 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.111, 0.204, 0.311, 0.314, 1.80.

<sup>12</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 1.1914.

13. **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that a copy of this Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture shall be sent by both Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, and regular mail, to Patrick Michael Ford at his address of record.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Ralph Barlow  
District Director,  
Tampa Office  
Southeast Region  
Enforcement Bureau